

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

October 23, 2002

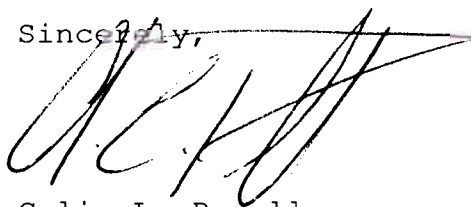
Dear Mr. Conyers:

I very much appreciated our recent meeting and the opportunity to exchange views on the FY 2003 refugee admissions program, in which we responded to many of the questions you raised in your September 30 letter. Although we may hold differing estimates of the numbers of refugees that can complete all requirements of refugee admissions processing in the coming year, there is no doubt that we share a deep commitment to ensuring the integrity and vitality of this important humanitarian program. I can assure you that we will continue to make every effort to identify refugee populations in need and to streamline procedures while, at the same time, ensuring that we are in full compliance with all current screening requirements.

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of Presidential Determination 2003-02, signed by the President on October 16, authorizing the FY 2003 refugee admissions program. The 70,000 refugee admissions authorized by Presidential Determination 2003-02 are predicated on full funding for the President's FY 2003 Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) appropriation request. Although we do not yet have our Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations, we continue to anticipate receiving full funding for this important program.

I very much appreciate your support for and commitment to the United States' refugee admissions program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Powell', written over a horizontal line.

Colin L. Powell

Enclosure: Presidential Determination 2003-02.

The Honorable
John Conyers, Jr.,
Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 16, 2002

Presidential Determination
No. 2003-02

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

**SUBJECT: Presidential Determination on FY 2003 Refugee
Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of
In-Country Refugee Status**

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 70,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2003 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa	20,000
East Asia	4,000
Eastern Europe	2,500
Former Soviet Union	14,000
Latin America/Caribbean	2,500
Near East/South Asia	7,000
Unallocated Reserve	20,000

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The 20,000 unallocated numbers shall be allocated as needed to regional ceilings where shortfalls develop. Unused admissions numbers allocated to a particular region may be transferred to one or more other regions if there is an overriding need for greater numbers for the region or regions to which the numbers are being transferred. You are hereby authorized and directed to consult with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress prior to any such use of the unallocated numbers or reallocation of numbers from one region to another.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

An additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers shall be made available during FY 2003 for the adjustment to permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(b)) of aliens who have been granted asylum in the United States under section 208 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as this is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

In accordance with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2003, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. Persons in Vietnam
- b. Persons in Cuba
- c. Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the Federal Register.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zu 32'.